

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A crane-excavator apparatus and method is provided. More particularly, the present invention relates to a mobile apparatus adaptable for use as a crane and as an excavator, and an associated
5 method. The crane includes a lower crawler adapted for use with an excavator, an upper body adapted for use with an excavator, a boom adapted to engage a crane body, and an adapter for engaging a receptacle of the excavator upper body. Typically, the receptacle would accept an excavator boom. The adaptor and the receptacle are fixedly secured
10 together such that the adaptor defines a connector for receiving the crane boom in the same manner as the crane boom would be accepted by a crane body for providing a range of boom angles comparable to the range of boom angles available to the boom connected to the crane body. The method for adapting an excavator for use as a crane is provided. Typically, the
15 excavator includes a lower crawler, an upper body and a receptacle secured to the upper body for receiving an excavation boom associated with an excavation implement. A crane boom associated with a crane implement is also utilized in the method. The method starts with disengaging, if connected, the excavator boom from the receptacle. Then,
20 the adaptor is engaged with the receptacle secured to the upper excavator body. The adaptor defines a connector for receiving the crane boom in the same manner as the crane boom would be accepted by a crane body, in other words, providing a range of boom angles comparable to the range of boom angles available to the boom connected to the crane body. The crane
25 boom is engaged with the connector. ~~Then the crane boom is articulated with respect to the connector in such a manner as to provide an~~

~~excavator-crane apparatus having the same operating and stability characteristics as a crane. Also provided is a method for adapting an excavator for use as a crane, a method for determining a luffing triangle effective to provide a full or near-full capacity crane, and an article of manufacture for adapting an excavator for use as a full or near-full capacity crane.~~

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